How to become a Dragon

- Episode 173 -

IT'S REALLY DEEP OVER HERE, SO THE WATER'S DANGEROUS.
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO MEDDLE WITH HUMANS ANYMORE...
...BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE DROWNED HERE...

W-WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DID YOU JUST APPEAR FROM THE WATER...?

THIS IS A HOLY MOUNTAIN, SO HUMANS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE HERE...

UH... DO YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU SOME HERBS?
THEY'LL HELP YOUR WOUNDS HEAL...
HE'S NOT...
CHILLS
...HUMAN.

AH...
SPRINT

PERHAPS I SAW A VISION.
I WAS ALWAYS TOLD NEVER TO SPEAK OF GHOSTS...

!

AH...
UM...

...
TURN

WAIT!
HERE...
TAKE THIS!

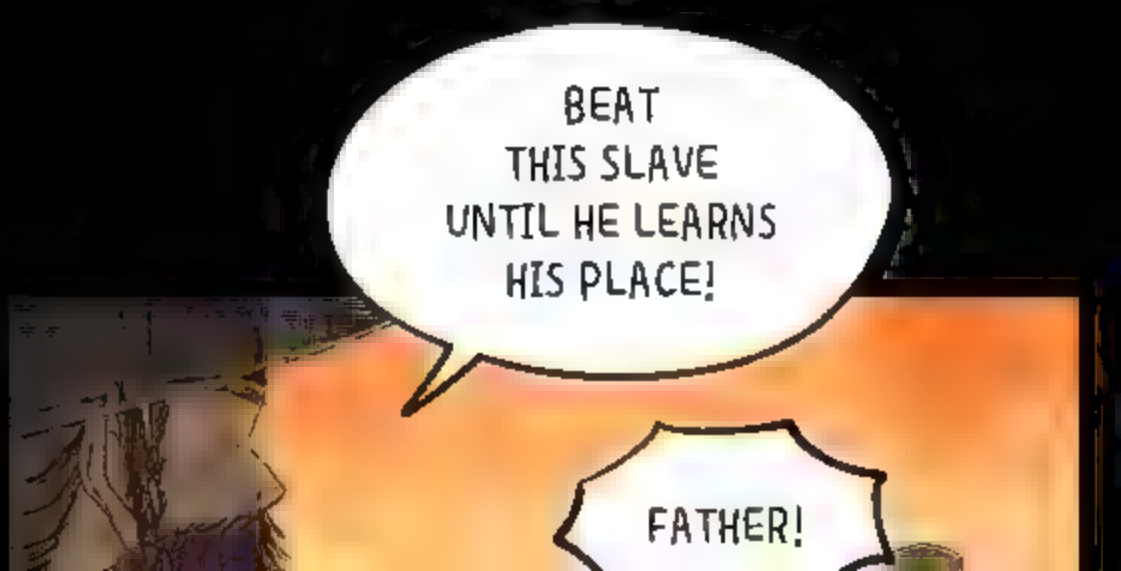
THIS IS...

I LOOKED THROUGH YOUR FAMILY'S SEIZED BELONGINGS,
HOPING TO FIND SOMETHING THEY LEFT BEHIND...
...BUT THIS IS THE ONLY THING I COULD BRING BACK.

YOU HAD MENTIONED...
...THAT YOUR FATHER TRANSCRIBED THIS BOOK HIMSELF.

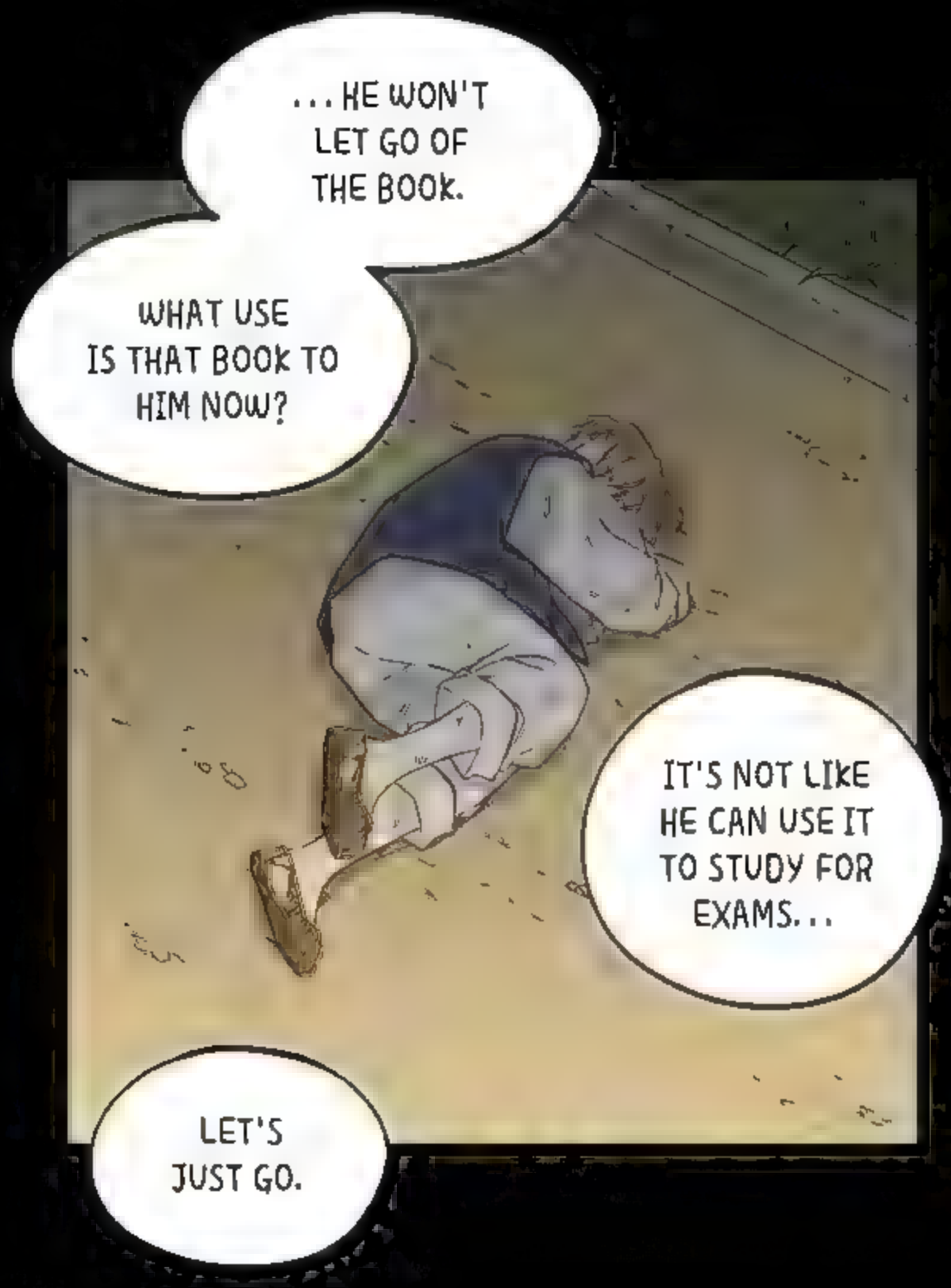
GIVING A BOOK TO A SLAVE?
STARTLE
WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THIS?

F-FATHER...
I EXPECTED THIS FROM A LOWLY SLAVE,
BUT FOR MY OWN SON TO NOT KNOW HIS PLACE...


BEAT THIS SLAVE UNTIL HE LEARNS HIS PLACE!
FATHER!

IT HAS NOT EVEN BEEN FOUR DAYS SINCE HIS LAST BEATING! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS AGAIN?
...
LEAVE BEFORE I TELL THEM TO BEAT YOU TOO!

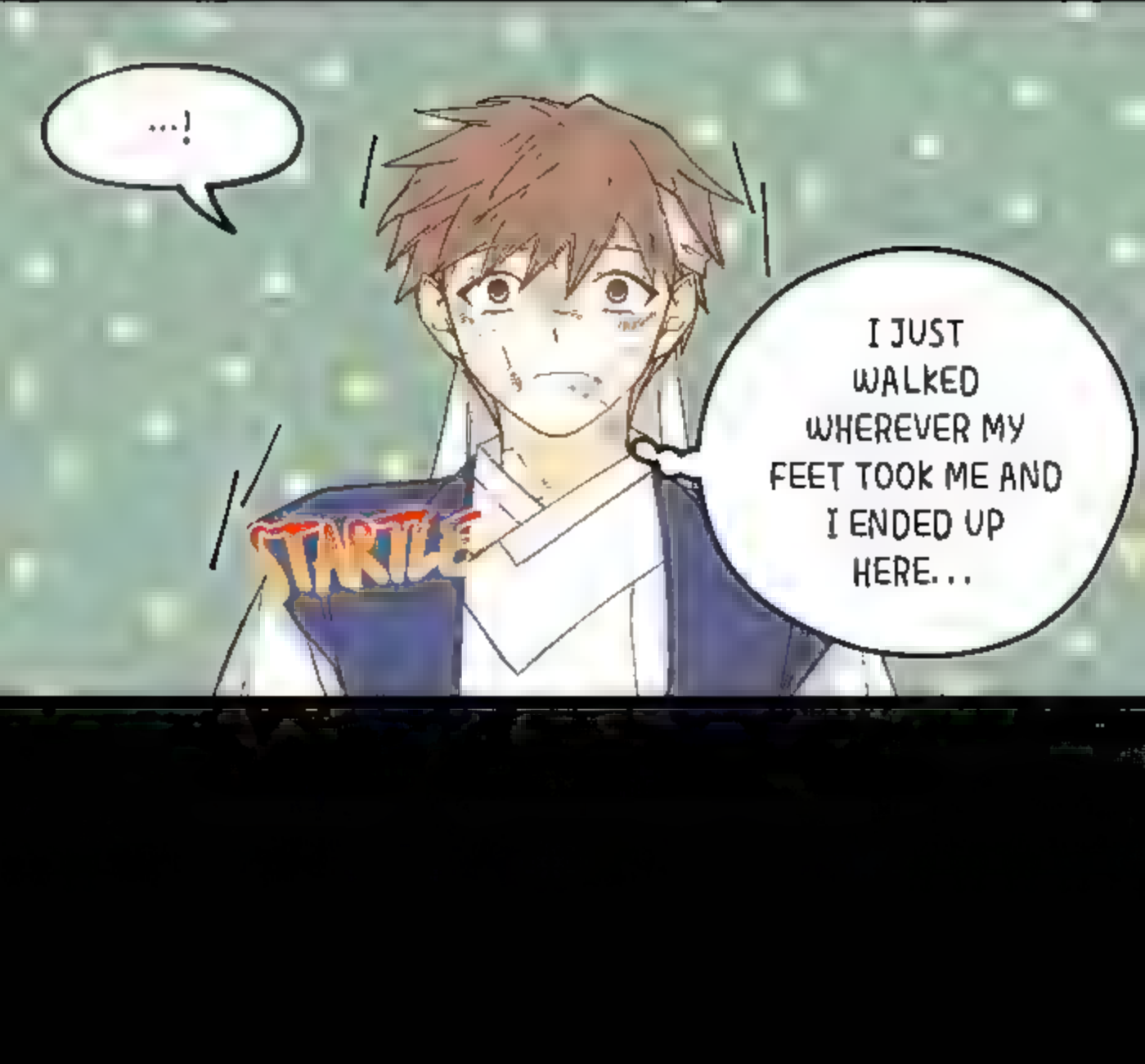
THIS STUBBORN BOY...
EVEN AFTER GETTING BEATEN LIKE THAT...


. . . HE WON'T LET GO OF THE BOOK.
WHAT USE IS THAT BOOK TO HIM NOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE HE CAN USE IT TO STUDY FOR EXAMS. . .
LET'S JUST GO.

COUGH
DESPITE ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED...
...I HAD SOMETHING THAT I COULD NOT LET GO OF.

TO THINK THAT A SINGLE "WHAT IF" HAD STOPPED ME...
...AND FORCED ME TO STAY ALIVE...

MY GOODNESS.
YOU LOOK EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE.


...!
I JUST WALKED WHEREVER MY FEET TOOK ME AND I ENDED UP HERE...
STARTLE

AH!
WAIT, WAIT!
DASH

I...
...DUG UP SOME HERBS...

THEY'RE GOOD FOR HEALING WOUNDS.

...

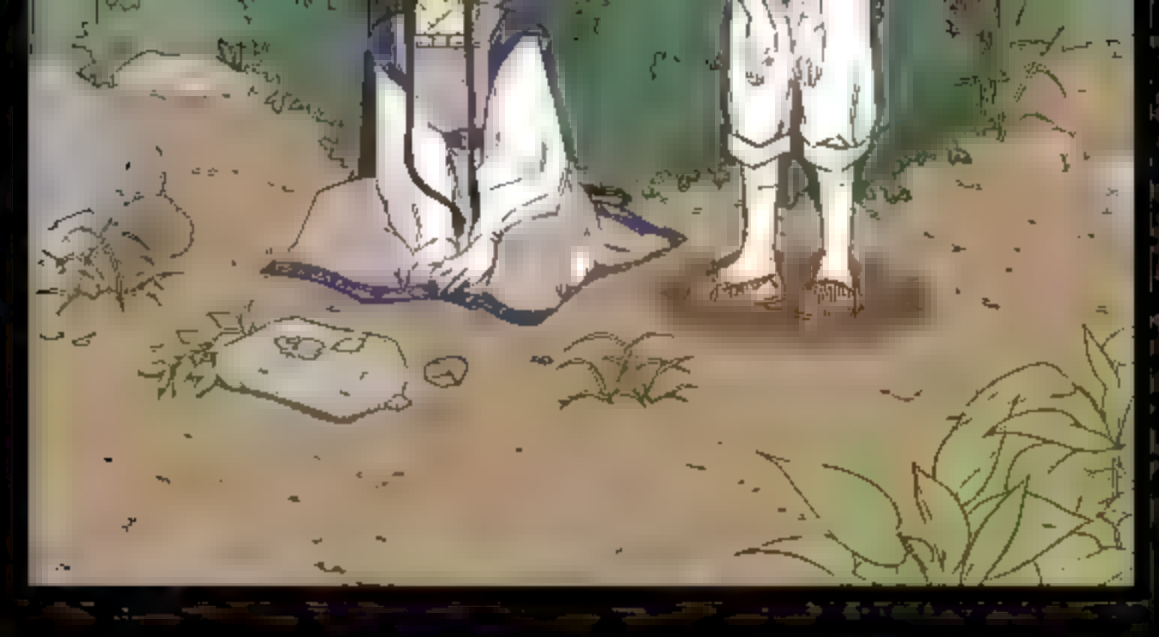
YOU'RE A SNAKE?
YEAH. I'M TRAINING TO BECOME A DRAGON.

HOW MUCH OF THIS SHOULD I BELIEVE...?
I SEE.
WHY DO YOU KEEP GETTING HURT?
YOU SEEM LIKE A WOODSMAN, BUT THERE'S NO WAY CHOPPING FIREWOOD IS SO DANGEROUS...

WERE YOU BEATEN?
IS SOMEONE HURTING YOU?
...

NO.
THEY JUST CARE DEEPLY FOR ME.

HUH...?
CARE...?
THANK YOU FOR THE HERBS. I MUST GET GOING NOW.



UM...
COME BACK IF YOU GET HURT AGAIN.
I HAVE LOTS OF HERBS.

BOW

CARE...

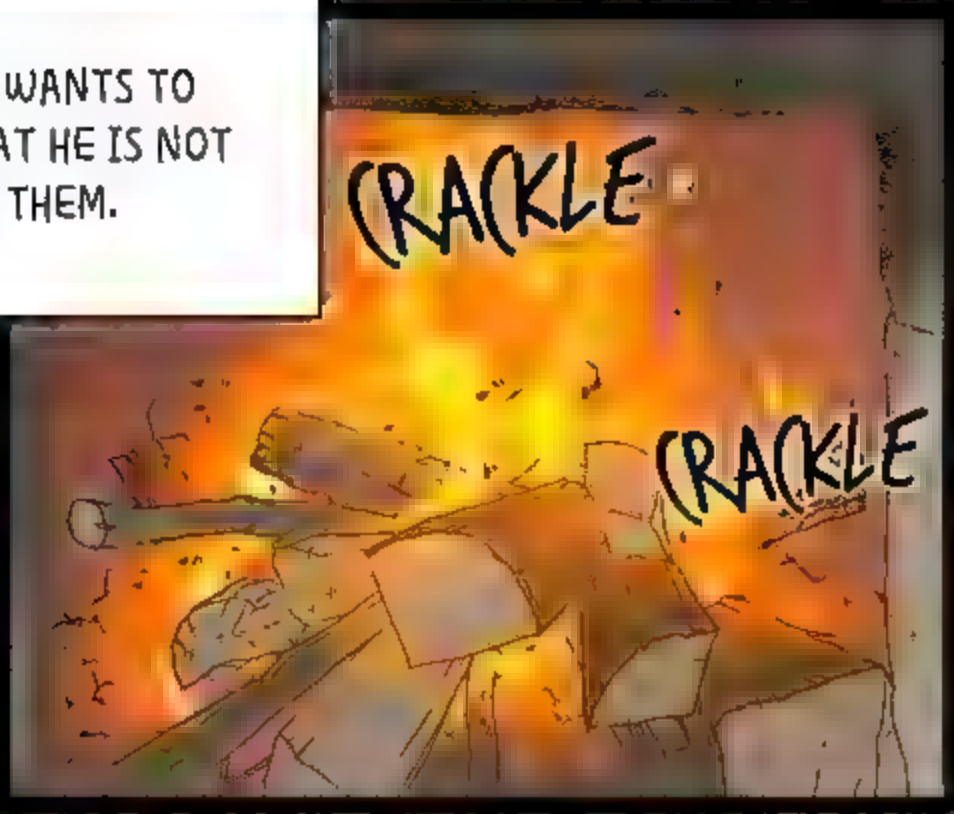
HE CARES
FOR ME.
BOW

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID, BUT HE JUST WANTS TO PROVE HIMSELF.

HE FRAMED HIS FRIEND AND COLLEAGUES FOR A CRIME...

...AND
HAD THEM ALL
SLAUGHTERED.

HE JUST WANTS TO
PROVE THAT HE IS NOT
LIKE THEM.

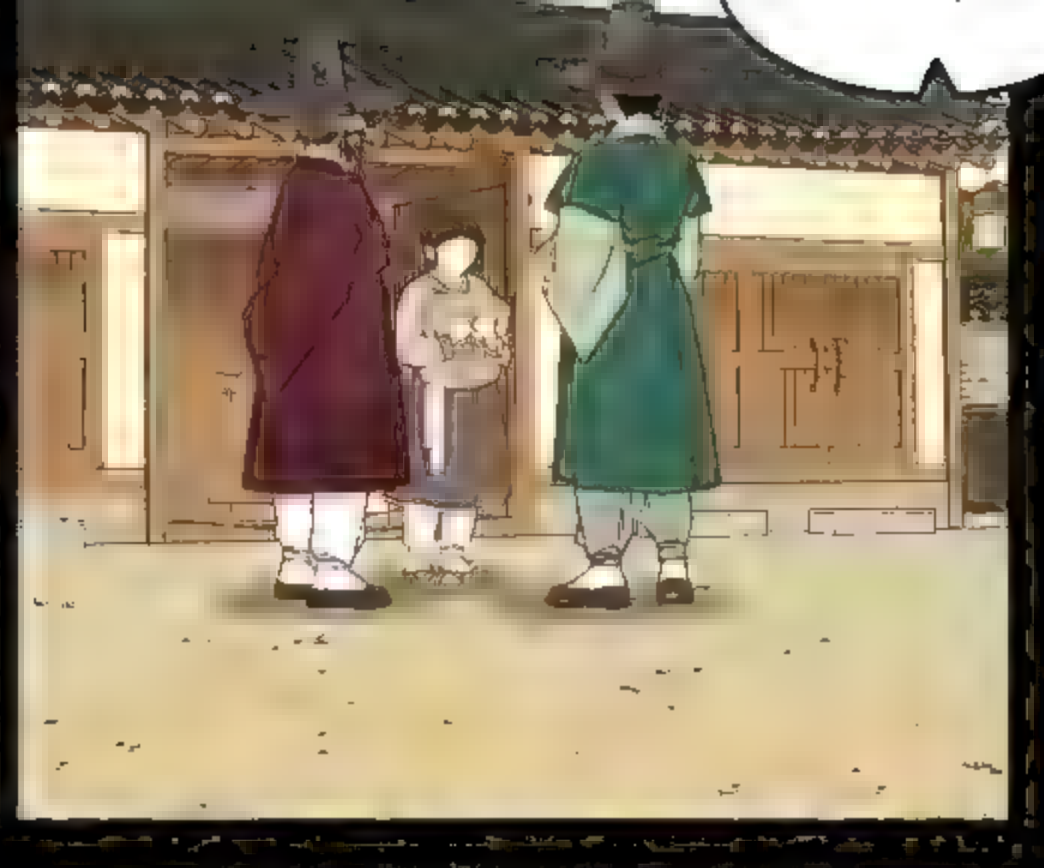


THAT IS WHY
HE KEPT ME FROM
BECOMING A FIELD
LABORER.

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
HE CONTINUES TO PLEAD HIS INNOCENCE BY HUMILIATING ME LIKE THIS.
HUMILIATING ME...

EXCUSE ME?

WELL, MASTER SAID HE'S LETTING YOU GET MARRIED.
WHAT A LUXURY FOR A SLAVE...
AH... I...
HE SAID HE BOUGHT A SLAVE GIRL FROM FARAWAY, SO COME ON OUT.
THERE YOU GO.
THEY'RE OVER THERE.



AH, THERE YOU ARE.

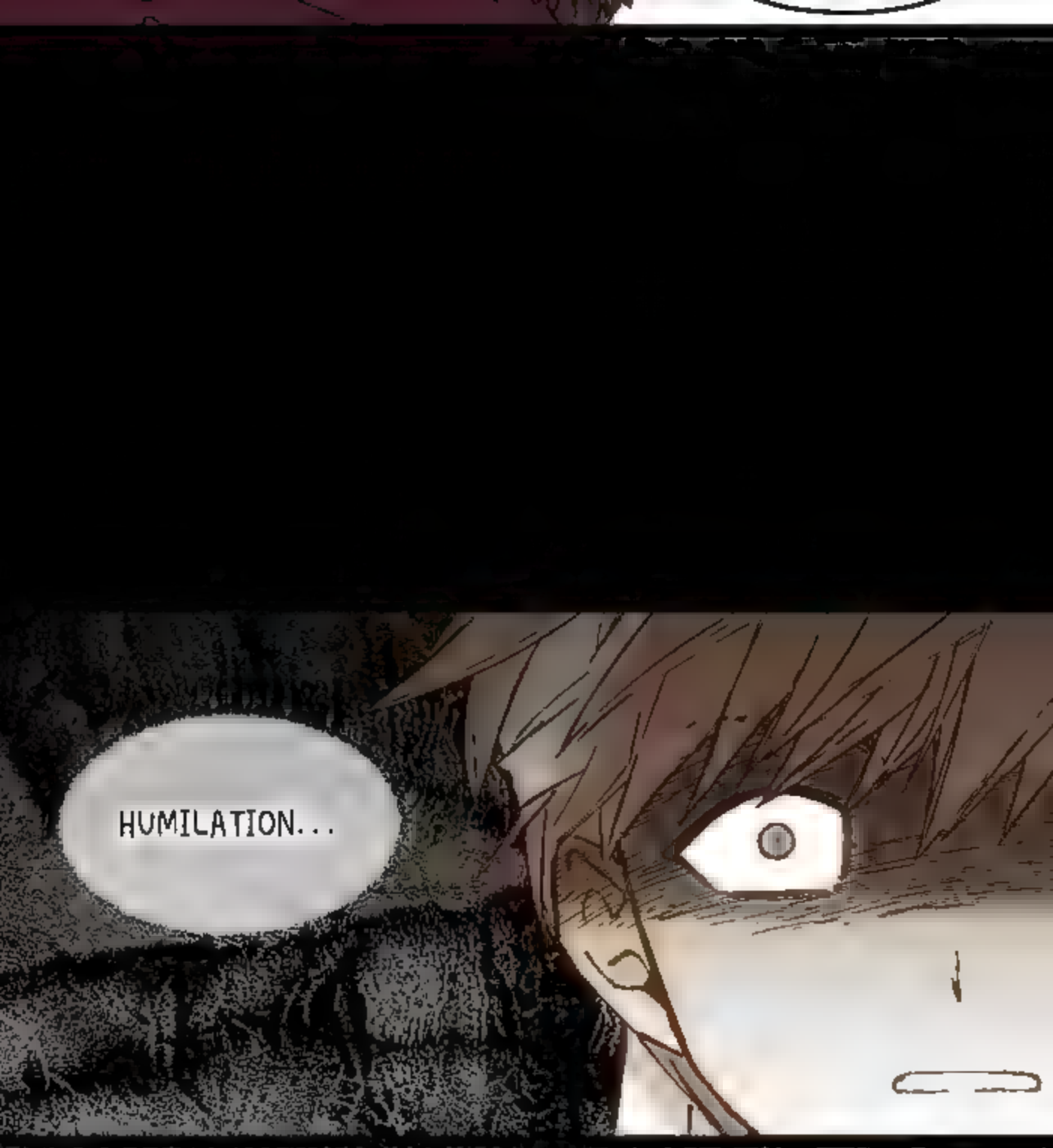
YOUNG MASTER...
SNIFFLE

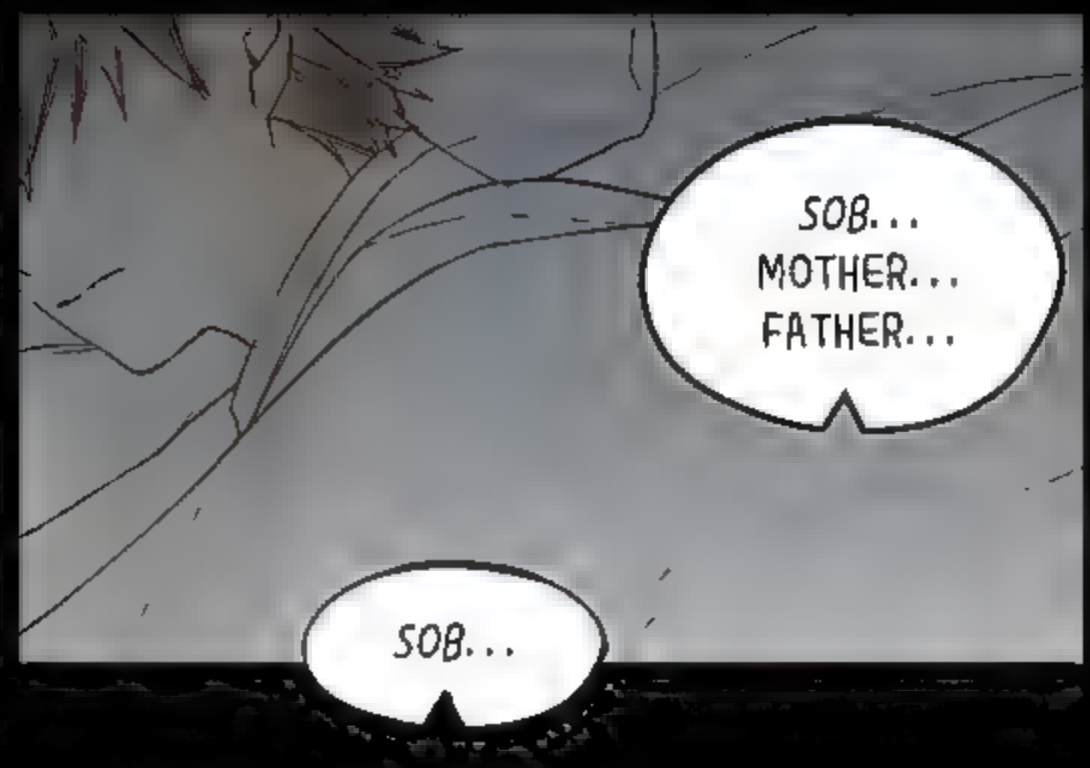
GANNAN...
GANNAN!
SLAP!
AAH...!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING YOUNG MASTER?

FATHER,
THIS GIRL IS--
THERE
IS NOTHING
SHE KNOWS HOW
TO DO, SO SHE MAY AS
WELL HAVE SOME
CHILDREN.

...!
BUT STILL, WHY DID YOU BRING THIS GIRL HERE?
HIS FORMER SERVANT, OF ALL PEOPLE...
...
WHO CARES IF SHE WAS HIS SERVANT?
THESE THINGS ARE NO DIFFERENT THAN LIVESTOCK, ANYWAYS.


HUMILATION...


SOB...
MOTHER...
FATHER...
SOB...

SNORE

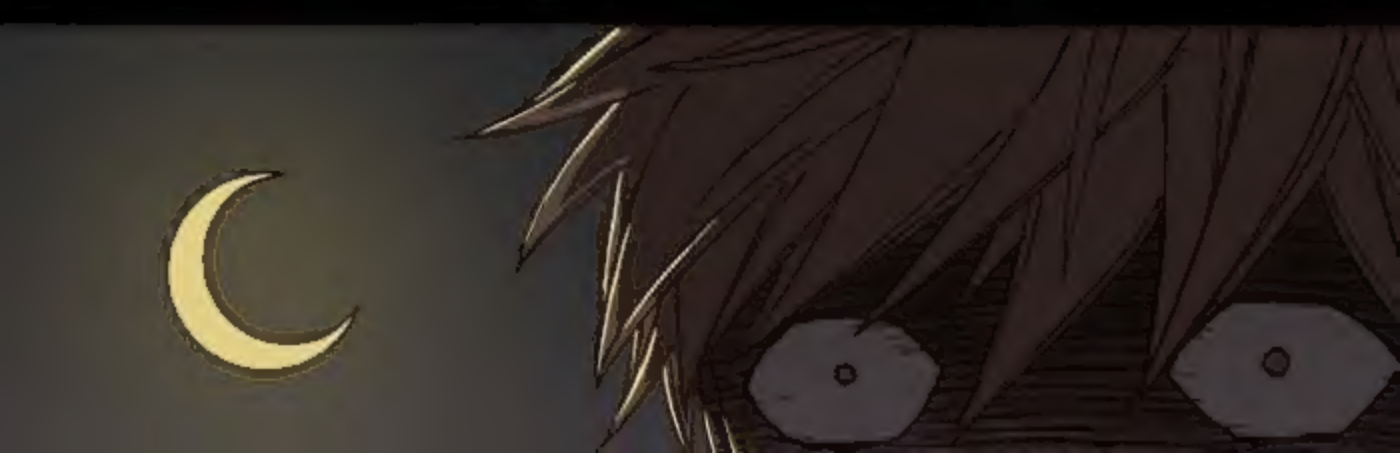
RUSTLE

CREAK

STEP

STEP

GRAB



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